

Message Text

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43

ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W
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R 191226Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0926

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, SA
SUBJECT: AMCONSUL DHAHRAN'S FSS SECRETARY POSITION VACANCY

REF: STATE 174902, KUWAIT 3335, DHAHRAN 0862

1. REF DEPTEL ANNOUNCES TRANSFER OF POST'S ONLY AMERICAN SECRETARY, MARGARET STROUD. WE HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT MISS STROUD WAS TO BE REPLACED BY AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY IN KUWAIT, MERRILL BROWN, BUT REF KUWAIT EMBTEL REPORTS THAT MIS BROWN HAS JUST ELECTED TO TAKE EARLY RETIREMENT. AS OUR REFTEL EXPLAINS, POST IS ALREADY SORELTY SHORT ON SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE IT CAN PROVIDE OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE, AND THIS DEVELOPMENT LEAVES US IN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION. CONGEN HAS ONLY TWO SECRETARIES (ONE FSS AND ONE FSL) TRAINED AS TYPISTS AND CAPABLE HANDLING OTHER SECRETARIAL DUTIES.

2. FOREGOING SUMMARY PROVIDED TO POINT UP SITUATION WHICH DEPARTMENT, WE ASSUME, IS ALREADY KEENLY AWARE. HOPEFULLY, PROMPT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO INSURE MISS STROUD'S REPLACEMENT AT POST PRIOR TO HER SEPTEMBER 15 DEPARTURE (SEE DHAHRAN 0925). POST IS ALREADY EXPERIENCING DIFFICULT PERSONNEL SITUATION THIS SUMMER AND ANOTHER POSITION LEFT VACANT WILL FURTHER CONTRACT OUR OPERATIONS. FRANKLY, OFFICERS AT THIS POST HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH ON THEIR PLATES WITHOUT HAVING TO TYPE THEIR OWN TELEGRAMS, LETTERS AND REPORTS.

3. THE OPTION OF EXTENDING MISS STROUD'S DHAHRAN ASSIGNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS VALID ALTERNATIVE. SHE HAS (A) BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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AT HARDSHIP POST FOR THREE YEARS WITHOUT HOME LEAVE AND (B) ALREADY

POSTPONED HERE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UPS IN EUROPE SO AS TO PROVIDE POST WITH CRITICALLY REQUIRED SECRETARIAL SUPPORT. POST APPRECIATES, OF COURSE, THAT DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PLACED IN DIFFICULT POSITION BY ABRUPT AND EARLY RETIREMENT OF MISS STROUD'S DESIGNATED REPLACEMENT. THEREFORE, WE ASK THAT IF A SUTIABLE CANDIDATE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE WHO CAN ARRIVE DHAHRAN BEFORE MISS STROUD'S DEPARTURE, A TDY SECRETARY BE ASSIGNED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PERMANENT REPLACEMENT CAN ARRIVE AT POST. PERHAPS WITH REDUCTION IN STAFF OF EMBASSY BEIRUT CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, DEPARTMENT CAN ARRANGE DIRECT TRANSFER OF FSS SECRETARY FROM BEIRUT TO FILL MISS STROUD'S POSITION OR TO PROVIDE INTERIM COVERAGE.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF POST COULD RECEIVE SHORT REPORT WITH DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON HOW AND WHEN MISS STROUD'S POSITION WILL BE FILLED.

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